

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-3 and 13, and amend the remaining claims as follows.

1. - 3. (Canceled)

4. (Original) An electrically driven power steering apparatus comprising:

a housing;

a ball screw shaft extending within said housing and connected to a steering mechanism;

an input shaft to which a steering force is inputted;

an output shaft for receiving the steering force from said input shaft and outputting the steering force to said ball screw shaft;

a torque sensor for detecting a torque transferred between said input shaft and said output shaft;

a motor including a rotor; and

a ball screw nut for giving a force acting in an axial direction to said ball screw shaft by receiving a rotational force from said motor,

wherein an elastic member deforming and thus capable of absorbing an impact inputted from the side of said ball screw shaft, is disposed on a support portion of said ball screw nut.

5. (Original) An electrically driven power steering apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said elastic member is disposed between said housing and a bearing for supporting said ball screw nut so as to be rotatable with respect to said housing or between said bearing and said ball screw nut.

6. (Original) An electrically driven power steering apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said bearing and said housing relatively move in the axial direction corresponding to the axis-directional deformation of said elastic member, and there is provided a displacement limiter for limiting a predetermined or larger quantity of deformation of said elastic member by limiting the relative movements of said bearing and said housing in the axial direction.

7. (Currently Amended) An electrically driven power steering apparatus according to claim 4 ~~any one of claims 1 through 6~~, wherein said rotor of said motor and said ball screw nut are connected by an engagement between a female spline and a male spline of which at least one toothed surface is coated with a resin.

8. (Currently Amended) An electrically driven power steering apparatus according to claim 6 ~~any one of claims 1 through 7~~, wherein said displacement limiter limits the predetermined or larger quantity of deformation of said elastic member at 40% or smaller of a maximum steering force exhibited by said motor.

9. (Currently Amended) An electrically driven power steering apparatus according to claim 4 ~~any one of claims 1 through 8~~, wherein a natural oscillation frequency of a system constructed of said rotor, said ball screw nut and said elastic member is set to 7 Hz or higher.

10. (Currently Amended) An electrically driven power steering apparatus

comprising:

- a housing;
  - a ball shaft extending within said housing and connected to a steering mechanism;
  - a motor having a rotor;
  - a ball screw nut, connected to said rotor of said motor, for converting a rotational force of said rotor into a force acting in an axial direction and transferring the same force to said ball screw shaft;
  - a bearing for supporting said ball screw nut ~~[[to]]~~ so as to be rotatable with respect to said housing; and
  - a presser member, screwed to said ball screw nut, for thus pressing said bearing against said ball screw nut,
- wherein said presser member includes a connection member for connecting said presser member to said ball screw nut so that said presser member and said ball screw nut are unable to relatively rotate.

11. (Original) An electrically driven power steering apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said connection member connects said presser member to said ball screw nut so as to be unable to relatively rotate by use of a shearing force of a resinous material.

12. (Original) An electrically driven power steering apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said connection member connects said presser member to said ball screw nut so as to be unable to relatively rotate by use of a frictional force.

13. (Canceled)